

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Open-ended Contractual Arrangements

1. Purpose. To advise about MEDCOM Health Care Contracting Activity (HCAA) initiatives to improve access to health care.

2. Points of major interest and facts.

a. The HCAA provides full contracting support to MEDCOM medical treatment facilities (MTFs) and other customers. The contracting offices that comprise the HCAA operate on a "center-satellite" basis to provide better support to their customers.

(1) The MEDCOM Contracting Center, located at Fort Sam Houston, functions as the "center," providing support for centralized requirements, and certain requirements from the regional contracting offices (RCOs) valued at \$500,000 or more, and for the Fort Sam Houston Garrison.

(2) The RCOs are located at medical centers (the Great Plains RCO is located at William Beaumont, the Southeast RCO is located at Eisenhower, the Western RCO at Madigan, and the Pacific RCO is located at Tripler). These offices act as the "satellites" and provide support, in general, for actions of less than \$500,000 to the regional medical commands (RMCs) in which they are located. They also support actions over \$500,000 for requirements contained within their region only, commercial items up to \$5 million, personal services awarded to an individual provider, and requirements recruited from other agencies on a reimbursable basis that are contained within their region.

(3) Contracts awarded by the MCC are transferred to the appropriate RCO for administration and/or ordering after award.

(4) The Directorate of Contracting (DOC), located at Walter Reed, supports the North Atlantic RMC.

b. The HCAA has initiated a wide range of contractual actions to improve access to health care and provide responsive support by contract. The types of open-ended contracts and arrangements are as follows.

(1) Indefinite delivery and task order contracts for various health care specialties, information technology (IT)

equipment, services, and equipment. Others are being negotiated. All of these improve the ability of the MTFs to treat patients/improve access to health care. Indefinite delivery contracts have also been written for use Department of Defense-wide, by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and by the Public Health Service. Task order contracts are awarded to several contractors for the same requirement. Task orders are negotiated with the contractors as individual requirements arise. These are particularly useful when the exact nature of the work covered by the contracts cannot be determined in advance.

(2) Blanket purchase agreements (BPAs) for health care services and supplies for use on a command-wide basis. Basic ordering agreements (BOAs) have also been issued for ADPE hardware and software.

(3) Umbrella contracts. Under this concept, a single Small Business Administration (SBA) Section 8(a) contractor furnishes selected direct health care provider (DHCP) services at one or more MTFs. A basic contract is awarded with a health care contractor. The contract contains a provision that allows additional DHCP services to be added by modification (within the non-competitive limits of the 8(a) program) based on mutual agreement as to price and performance period between the parties involved.

c. Existing open-ended contracts and arrangements available for MTF use are enclosed as follows: DHCP services (Encl 1); Umbrella contracts (Encl 2); Medical equipment and supplies (Encl 3); IT arrangements (Encl 4); Facilities contracts (Encl 5); Miscellaneous service arrangements (Encl 6). Open-ended requirements that are currently being negotiated are at Encl 7.

d. The geographical coverage is indicated as to being for a Regional Medical Command (RMC), CONUS, OCONUS, USA (USA = CONUS, plus Alaska and Hawaii), or worldwide. Some of the open-ended arrangements have been modified or are being modified to permit ordering by the RCOs. Contracts that authorize ordering by the RCOs are identified in the enclosures. Contact either the MCC or the RCO points of contact on the enclosed listings for further information. Note that, for the purposes of the enclosed lists, the WRAMC DOC is considered to be an RCO.

MCAA-C-MSS

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e. Medical treatment facilities are encouraged to consider use of the open-ended contractual arrangements to quickly obtain required services, equipment, and supplies. Once an arrangement is awarded, the initial contracting administrative lead times of 150-300 days will not have to be reinitiated when requirements arise. For DHCP services, only the time required for recruitment, placement, and credentials verification is needed to commence new services.

f. The information contained in this paper will be updated periodically.

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Center